

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 265886

STADIS////////////////////
EXDIS-EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD FROM COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISITS TO PROMOTE JAPANESE POLICIES

1. WE HAVE BEEN DEVOTING MUCH EFFORT IN RECENT DAYS TO
PULL TOGETHER AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR JAPAN. THE RESULTS
WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU SOON. WE SEE AN OPPORTUNITY
IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO MAKE SOME LASTING CHANGES
IN JAPAN'S APPROACH TO THE WORLD ECONOMY, AS WELL AS TO
PROVIDE SOME RELIEF TO THE MORE IMMEDIATE PRESSURES THAT
HAVE ARISEN, OR WILL ARISE, DURING THE NEXT YEAR. WE WANT
TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT JAPANESE CONCERNS TO
INDUCE SOME OF THESE LASTING CHANGES IN APPROACH.

2. I WANT TO RAISE WITH YOU THE QUESTION OF WHAT
PROCEDURE IS LIKELY TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM EFFECT IN
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INFLUENCING JAPANESE ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC
POLICY AND IMPORT POLICY. ONE THOUGHT, WHICH WAS RAISED
DURING YOSHINO'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WOULD BE TO
HAVE CEA CHAIRMAN SCHULTZE VISIT TOKYO IN CONNECTION WITH
HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE OF
THE OECD. YOSHINO SEEMED TO FEEL THAT SCHULTZE'S PRESENCE
WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING THE JAPANESE

GOVERNMENT TO SET AN AMBITIOUS GROWTH TARGET FOR 1978, SAY EIGHT PERCENT. BECAUSE OF SCHULTZE'S HEAVY SCHEDULE DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS IN PREPARING OUR OWN ECONOMIC POLICY FOR 1978, SCHULTZE SAYS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GO TO TOKYO. BUT IF SUCH A VISIT HELD OUT SUFFICIENT PROMISE FOR RESULTS, THE PRESIDENT, WHO AS YOU KNOW HAS TAKEN A GREAT INTEREST IN JAPANESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, MIGHT PERSUADE HIM TO GO.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL TO VISIT TOKYO SOMETIME IN THE LATTER HALF OF NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS THE LONG-TERM ADJUSTMENTS WHICH WE FEEL JAPAN MUST MAKE IF SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE TO BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE, AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS LONG-TERM VIEW FOR CURRENT ECONOMIC, EXCHANGE RATE, AND IMPORT POLICIES.

4. A VISIT BY EITHER SCHULTZE OR BLUMENTHAL NEED NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO TALK ABOUT THE MTN AND OTHER IMMEDIATE TRADE PROBLEMS. BUT AS STATED ABOVE, WE WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ORDER TO LAUNCH JAPAN ON A LONGER RUN COURSE THAT WOULD AVOID REPETITION OF CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

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5. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, YOSHINO SUGGESTED THAT SOME AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE USEFUL -- HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO A VISIT BY SCHULTZE -- BUT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT NEITHER BE TOO MUCH NOR TOO VISIBLE. I NEED YOUR JUDGMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ABOUT THE OPTIMAL APPROACH TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO TIMING AND WITH RESPECT TO WHICH OFFICIALS, IF ANY, WOULD BE BEST SUITED TO IMPRESS ON THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BOTH THE IMPORTANCE OF LONGER TERM ADJUSTMENTS AND THE NEED TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS FOR THOSE LONGER TERM ADJUSTMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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